



WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

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# Communic~8

Volume 11, Issue 6


District 8

June 2012

**District 8 is on the web**

[www.dist8tm.org](http://www.dist8tm.org)

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## Conference Highlights!

**By Jacquie Vick and Jef Williams—Conference Chairs**

*What makes a conference great? Is it content quality? Star power of speakers? Networking? Venue? Food? Does it matter? Survey says ... dynamic speakers; diverse, relevant, and engaging workshops; a well-stocked hospitality room; networking; and entertainment.*

Based on verbal and written feedback from the more than 100 attendees, the 2012 Spring Conference Committee delivered on all fronts. District Governor Tom Coscia stated that the bar for workshop quality had been raised; and Dori Drummond, 2009-2010 district governor, said, "This was one of the best conferences we've had thus far." With that said, the conference opened and ended with a bang. Here are the conference highlights.

"*LEAP into Success*," the conference theme, kicked-off Friday night, May 18, New Orleans style. During Brenda English's conference welcome message, the crowd was startled by a loud knock at the conference room door. When the door opened, in walked a band of Toastmaster party crashers, led by Jef Williams, donning

colorful mardi gras attire. While the party crashers distributed beads throughout the audience,

Rosmon Johnson - a one man band - entertained the crowd with the smooth sounds of NawLins and contemporary jazz.



Following the Cajun style dinner buffet, Debbie Hyde was the last sitting Toastmaster in the musical chairs, Price is Right like scavenger hunt. Rounding out the entertainment that evening was a colorful parade of mardi gras fashions. During this brief fashion show, Toastmasters sashayed to the front of the room with the hopes of being voted winners of the best mardi gras costumes. Winners, Tori Hobbs, Lora Mather, and Julie Siess each received a \$20 gift card, compliments of MasterCard.

The night continued with the finale event, the evaluation contest. After Mark Strothmann, pattern speaker,

*(More conference photos pages 5, 17, 20, 21—  
Story continued on page 14)*



**Attend District 8 Toastmasters Leadership Institute June 23**



## Two Great Years!

In July 1 of 2010 I assumed the position of Lieutenant Governor Education & Training (LGET). July 1, 2012 my term ends as District Governor. I am really proud of the changes I have made in the almost 2 years I have been involved in the Top 3. The changes also reflect the five core values that we as Top 3 formulated during our district leader training:

1. Fun
2. Trust
3. Innovate
4. Success
5. Recognition



**Tom Coscia, DTM**

District Governor  
District 8

EMAIL: [coscia@peoplepc.com](mailto:coscia@peoplepc.com)

### As LGET:

- We added advanced officer training for experienced Toastmasters for President and VPE. We split VPR into training for closed clubs and training for corporate clubs. The additional breakouts have made the training more relevant based on experience-level or type of club.
- For judges training we added hands-on judging on all four speech contests: International Speech, Humorous, Evaluation and Table Topics. We received many positive reviews on this training.
- The last two years we brought in the Regional Advisor for the afternoon of the January TLI training to add advanced training. Many people really enjoyed their presentations.
- We added the Fall and Spring contest scripts to the District Website to make it easier for those running contests.

### As DG:

- We allowed new DTM recipients to have a mentor/friend speak about them and allowed the recipient to give a short thank you speech. This has made a more meaningful ceremony which will hopefully inspire more people to earn their DTM.
- For the first time the District awarded 2 corporate recognitions (Maritz and Enterprise) to build PR and a stronger relationship with our corporate partners.
- We brought in International Speech Champions, Darren LaCroix and Craig Valentine for one night training sessions. We received much positive feedback on both nights.
- I sent weekly emails to the DEC and Committee Chairs to keep them apprised of what was going on in the district.
- We added a small trivia competition between the divisions at the DEC meeting to increase knowledge and to add some camaraderie and fun.
- We posted a password protected district directory on the district website to make it easier to access everyone.
- We added email links on the district website for all DEC members and Committee Chairs to make them more accessible.

*(Continued on page 13)*

**Curtis Scroggins, DTM**Lieutenant Governor Education & Training  
District 8

EMAIL: scrogginscurtis@gmail.com

## A Message From the LGET

Hello District 8 Toastmasters!

What an incredible Spring Conference! The District 8 Spring Conference held May 18th and 19th in Eureka, Missouri was full of motivating keynote speakers, dynamic contests, challenging presenters, wonderful activities, great food and exciting business! If you missed the conference, you missed a treat!

We are winding up the last quarter of the Toastmasters year and I hope you are on schedule to meet your goals! Take a look back at what you said you would do this year and measure that against what you have accomplished. Overall, the District is doing well in educational goals. As of this writing, we need 13 CCs to meet all of our educational goals. I am positive we will meet this goal so I will say congratulations now, and thank you to all of those who have achieved any educational award this year. Whether it was a Communication or Leadership award, it has made you, your club, area, division, district and Toastmasters International stronger!

As we finish the rest of the year I am challenging each of you to finish your current level or start on the next level of award you need, in both the leadership and communication tracks. I received a DTM this year and I have already started completing both a new Competent Communicator and Competent Leader awards and I carry those manuals with me to all of my Toastmasters meetings.

This has been an incredible year in educational awards. This year, we had 14 DTMs earned in the District, the most since they started keeping records online, which was 2004. In ACs we achieved over twice our goal of 45 and currently sit at 91. I believe this number will still increase, having earned 159 so far when the goal was only 107. Please continue completing and submitting your educational awards through the remainder of the year. Though we have met the district goals, there may be many who have not yet met their personal goal and should continue moving toward it.

It has been a pleasure serving this year as your Lieutenant Governor Education and Training. You have made it easy to serve in this area by your continuous achievement of awards and achievements. The two TLIs we had this year were fantastic, and both conferences were extremely satisfying as we met and overcame challenges in both cases that demonstrated the excellent leadership and camaraderie of the conference teams that were put together.

The innovations we tried this year in the area of Education and Training deserve mention also. Under the leadership of Tom Coscia, we started allowing online credit card payments for the conferences, developed an editable form for registering for the conferences and modified the way the DTM line was executed. A "Year in Review" slide show was added to this year's Spring Conference which served as a great slideshow to end the conference. For contests, Toastmasters International gave us the ability to download the contest forms and we added those to the District 8 website, allowing the Clubs, Areas, Divisions and District the ability to have the forms digitally saving the District the cost of ordering and/or mailing contest forms.

It has been a great year to be LGET and I thank each of you for it and wish you all success in accomplishing your goals!

Thanks!

Curtis Scroggins, District 8 LGET ■



**Lora Mather, DTM**

Lieutenant Governor Marketing

District 8

EMAIL: ltgovmarketing@dist8tm.org

## A Message From the LGM



Lora Mather, DTM

Share your Toastmasters journey with others! **Invite a friend to your next club meeting!** Below are a few suggestions to make your Toastmaster's journey memorable:

- Find Your Voice by Speaking Out
- Maintain Your Momentum
- Take Time to Self-Evaluate
- Ask for Help
- Add Variety to Your Journey
- Spend Time at Our Toastmaster Major Attractions

**To Find Your Voice You Need to Speak Out.** Your club is your support team. Your fellow Toastmasters will be with you through every word. Every Toastmaster member will listen to your words—how you say it. They will focus opportunities to enhance your message through your voice, facial expressions and body movements.

Your first speech was the hardest, but if you don't immediately sign up for speech number two, your journey will stall. Sign up for another speech within the next two meetings. **Maintain your momentum.** It took me fifteen years to achieve the highest educational award in Toastmasters—DTM. I look back and I wonder why. At times, I would find my voice and then wait so long between speeches or leadership roles that I would lose it again. Building my confidence was an up and down journey. If I had to do it over again, I would focus on creating a path of continual upward progress.

After your fifth speech, **take time to self-evaluate.** Think about what skills that you would like to improve—such as bigger gestures; or timing your gestures with your words; developing openings that are attention getters or closing that are calls to action.

After you know what you want to improve, **ask for help.** Any Toastmaster can give you constructive feedback, but they need to know what you think you need to improve. **Ask for help.** By asking others, you will learn that you are very strict with yourself. Others do not see what you see. By asking them to look at the same things that you are looking at, will help you to see yourself more realistically.

Before you complete that 10th speech, review the advanced manuals and make your selections. If you don't like those manuals, buy a few more. You will need complete 6 more advanced manuals to achieve the DTM, so don't limit yourself. Work in two-three manuals at the same time. This way you can vary your projects. **Add variety to your learning** and will keep you interested in your **journey.**

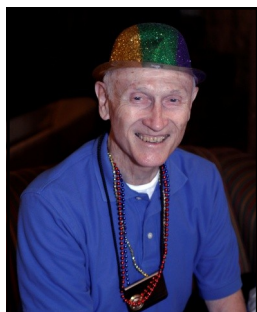
**Bring a friend to your next club meeting.** Journeys are always more fun with people you know. Therefore, make your Toastmaster journey a vacation with lots of special memories.

No vacation is a vacation, unless you **spend some time at a major attraction.** In the Toastmaster's world, our major attractions are:

- Toastmaster Leadership Institutes (TLI);
- Contests, and;
- Conferences.

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# Friday Night - Spring Conference





# The Power of Toast!

## Meet DTM Benedict Kemper

Interviewed By Cynthia Scroggins

It's Sunday Night, September 23, 1990 at the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City. It's also Benedict Kemper's last night as President of the Alpha Toastmasters Club. Serving as President of the Alpha Gavel Club was a milestone event for Ben. What's so unusual about this? Ben is a member of the first prison club in the United States, The Alpha Toastmasters Club. The Alpha Toastmasters Club was chartered in 1974 by H. Mack Stewart, a school teacher and principal who believed the club would benefit the inmates. His wife Lora Mae was also a member and a volunteer in corrections (VIC) for approximately 30 years. She was an active member until she was 89 years of age and received a Presidential Citation in 2000 from Toastmasters International for her dedicated service to the Alpha Club.

Fast forward. Now, it's August 21, 2011 and Ben is receiving another milestone accomplishment in his Toastmasters career. Ben joined Toastmasters in 1984. He is one of the first Toastmasters to become a DTM while in prison.

**Q: Ben, when you joined Toastmasters, did you ever think you would achieve some of the accomplishments you have?**

A: No, I really didn't. I never thought I would be in Toastmasters this long (28 years).

**Q: Why did you join Toastmasters?**

A: I joined Toastmaster to speak better, in return it has helped me to become more mature and communicate better with others. I was sick of the violence and wanted to do a better job communicating. I witnessed a fellow inmate that was in Toastmasters (I wasn't in at the time) defuel a situation through communication. I decided I wanted to be able to do that; defuel situations through communication. So, I joined Toastmasters.

**Q: The Alpha Toastmaster Club (currently the Alpha Gavel Club) was the first prison club in the world. Were you a charter member?**

A: No, I was not a charter member and I had an opportunity to be one. I regret it to this day. If I have any regrets about Toastmasters, it would be that I was not a chartered member.

**Q: Why is this currently called the Alpha Gavel Club and not the Alpha Toastmasters club?**

A: In 2008 the inmates were not able to maintain enough members that could afford to pay the dues. So, instead of losing the club, we downgraded to a gavel club. We do the same thing in the gavel club as you would do in a Toastmaster club. We are not a chartered club.

**Q: Have you ever been in any club other than the Alpha Gavel/Alpha Toastmasters club?**

A: Yes I have, I am a member of the Callaway Toastmasters Club. Because this is not a Toastmasters club, those that could afford the dues were allowed to join a local club to keep our status. I joined the Callaway Club. I am thankful to the Callaway Toastmasters Club for having me; for that reason, I can continue to be an active Toastmaster member.

**Q: How do you use the communication skills you have gained in your daily life?**

A: I have learned how to communicate how I feel without making the other person feel threatened. Communication is more than speaking. It's also about listening, reading the emotions and thoughts behind what is being said. It's having empathy and compassion for their feelings.

**Q: How have you grown as a communicator and leader since you joined Toastmasters?**

A: I learned and have become more careful about what I want and more aware of others, to not be selfish. Toastmasters has helped me to be more aware of how selfish I was and I can now do something about it. Look at yourself in the mirror. Be honest with yourself about who you are. When you see bad, name the characteristic and deflect it; then do something about it.

*(Continued on page 10)*



# TOASTMASTERS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE CLUB OFFICER TRAINING



WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY

FARRELL  
LEARNING  
AND  
TEACHING  
CENTER

## LEARN, GROW AND ACHIEVE

### BE A CLUB OFFICER

**JUNE 23RD • DOORS OPEN AT 8AM**

#### CLASSES INCLUDE

Club Officer Training: Attend a class that fits your experience level.  
Single-Skill Sessions: Master useful skills in these small classes.  
Demonstrations: Discover ways to involve your entire club in the learning process.

**PREREGISTER ONLINE**  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MZZBQ07>

**DETAILS**  
<http://www.dist8tm.org/tli.html>

## Toastmaster Leadership Institute

District 8 welcomes incoming club officers with the Toastmaster Leadership Institute scheduled for **Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**, in the Farrell Learning and Teaching Center at Washington University Medical School, St. Louis. Participants may choose from a variety of classes...

- *Club Officer Training:* Attend a class that fits your current experience level.
- *Single-Skill Sessions:* Master useful skills in these small classes (18 people).
- *Demonstrations:* Discover ways to involve your club in the learning process.

Preregistration is highly encouraged. We will randomly select four preregistered individuals and give each a \$25 gift card. Seating is limited, especially in our single-skill sessions. Preregistration is the best way to reserve your seat in the class of your choice, however, once the class fills not even preregistration can guarantee you a seat.

You may preregister online <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MZZBQQ7> or by mail BJC Health Care Center for LifeLong Learning, BJC Learning Institute, Attn: Gary Stocker, Mailstop 92-92-244, 8300 Eager Road, Suite 200A, St. Louis, MO 63144.

Visit <http://www.dist8tm.org/tli.html> or call 314-707-0073 for the latest directions and details.

### Agenda

**8:00\*** Doors open for conversation and continental breakfast.

**8:30** Opening Ceremonies featuring a keynote address by Jef Williams.

#### **9:30-10:20** Session One

New President • New Vice President of Education • New Vice President of Membership • Corporate Vice President of Public Relations • Secretary • Sergeant at Arms • Improve Your Club • Create a Mentoring Program • Planning Your Club's Yearly Adventure (Club Success Plan) • Start a Club • Host an Open House • From Guest to Member • Develop New Leaders in Your Club • Create an Online Marketing Campaign • Maximize FTH 2.0 for Every Member (participants are encouraged to bring a laptop) • Host a Club Contest

#### **10:30-11:20** Session Two

Experienced President • Experienced Vice President of Education • Experienced Vice President of Membership • Community Vice President of Public Relations • Treasurer • Improve Your Club • Create a Mentoring Program • Planning Your Club's Yearly Adventure (Club Success Plan) • Start a Club • Host an Open House • From Guest to Member • Develop New Leaders in Your Club • Create an Online Marketing Campaign • Maximize FTH 2.0 for Every Member (participants are encouraged to bring a laptop) • Host a Club Contest

#### **11:30-12:30** Session Three

Interclub Debate • International Skype Meeting • Humorous Evaluation Workshop

\* **Sergeant at Arms** trainees are asked to meet at 7:30 am at the East entrance to the building off Lot E for special pre-training (see map at <http://www.dist8tm.org/tli.html>). \*





## DEBATE

Toastmasters Leadership Institute

Details at... <http://www.dist8tm.org/tli.html>

Preregister Online... <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MZZBQQ7>



## Humorous Evaluation Workshop

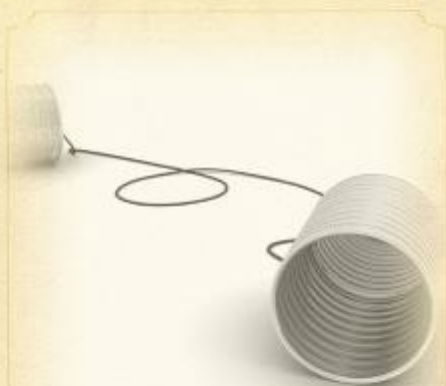
Toastmasters Leadership Institute

Details at... <http://www.dist8tm.org/tli.html>

Preregister Online...  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MZZBQQ7>

TOASTMASTERS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

## SKYPE MEETING WITH SOUTH AFRICA



DETAILS AT... [HTTP://WWW.DIST8TM.ORG/TLI.HTML](http://www.dist8tm.org/tli.html)

PREREGISTER ONLINE...  
[HTTP://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/S/MZZBQQ7](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MZZBQQ7)



## SINGLE-SKILL SESSIONS Toastmasters Leadership Institute

Preregister Online <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MZZBQQ7>

Details <http://www.dist8tm.org/tli.html>

**... The Power of Toast! ...**

*(Continued from page 6)*

**Q: If someone asked you to give a presentation on short notice, how would you react?**

A: Step up, pitch in and do it. There was a time when I would have said no. Now, even when I don't feel like it, I pitch in and do it anyway. Then I find that afterwards it was great and I feel great about doing it. I did my part to the best of my ability and I am glad I did.

**Q: What do you like best about Toastmasters?**

A: The diversity of men (and women) from all walks of life sharing; I enjoy listening to views of others'; even though I may not always agree with them, I respect their view.

**Q: You said the diversity of women. This is an all men prison; could you explain what you mean by "the women"?**

A: We are fortunate to have men and women who are VICs; this is what allows us to hold our meetings. Without the VICs we would not be able to meet. We have had numerous women VICs over the years.

**Q: What have you completed in Toastmasters to gain leadership experience?**

A: I have held all the leadership positions in Toastmasters. When the new Competent Leader (CL) manual came out, I redid the CL. I have completed the Club Successful Leader Series and I work with other members as a mentor. In here (prison), I use my Toastmaster skills to help me as an Offender Offering Alternatives (OOA) leader. I am a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman and my role is to train new officer for OOA. Our goal is to offer offenders alternatives to their criminal lifestyles and thinking. We educate them about programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Substance Abuse Counseling and how to express their needs to the Probation Officer (PBO). The PBO helps them by putting them in classes that help them with things such as self-esteem and making better choices.

**Q: What surprises you most about Toastmasters?**

A: What amazes me the most about Toastmasters is the character of people who gets involved. How they are one way when they join Toastmasters and then you begin to see them grow and change. You see them become part of a team in a short while. They come in saying "I" and then before long it turns to "we" as in team. You watch the ones that come in with an agenda and when they don't get their way they slowly fade away and disappear.

**Q: What is the most important information you would tell your family and friends about Toastmasters?**

A: The first thing is, I hope my family and friends can tell by my attitude how Toastmasters has changed my life. Second, my relationship with my family has grown because of my ability to communicate better. I am able to better express myself. I think the greatest testimony one can give is for others to see your attitude and lifestyle change.

**Q: You have accomplished something that no other Toastmaster, which we know of, in the history of the prison system, has ever done. You have received your DTM (Distinguished Toastmasters Award). What does this mean to you?**

A: Fulfillment! A goal I have had for a long time and one that I thought I would never achieve, to get my DTM. But, because of VIC's and Toastmasters outside the walls, I am very grateful. Especially to Pam, she did my Area Governor visits for me.

**Q: Now that you've come this far, what's your next step?**

A: Continue to work with other Toastmasters in the Gavel Club to help them achieve their goals. I am also taking a leadership role in the Callaway Club by coordinating with Meg and helping them to achieve their goals and strive for their club to be Presidential Distinguished.

**Q: If you had to describe one skill you have gained from Toastmasters, what would that be?**

A: The ability to look at someone and see them as a person of worth; to hear what they are saying with my heart and not my ears, and respect their right to say it.

**Q: How do you feel about being the first District 8 member, in the prison system to become a DTM?**

A: I feel both satisfied and unsatisfied. I know that sounds funny but I believe there are others that should have

*(Continued on page 12)*

# Corporate Recognitions

- By Lora Mather, DTM

On May 18th Toastmasters International presented two corporate recognitions at the request of District 8 Governor Tom Coscia. This was another first in Tom's service to District 8. Corporate recognitions reinforce the relationship between Toastmasters and these corporate sponsors by providing physical recognition of Toastmasters International's appreciation of the sponsoring organization's support. Corporate awards may only be presented by an International Officer or Director. These visits reaffirm the organization's high-level support for Toastmasters while providing the organization a tangible recognition of Toastmasters International's appreciation for its support.

Toastmasters International requires that corporations receiving this award must:

- Support more than one Toastmasters club, whether locally, regionally, nationally or internationally
- Have the potential to sponsor more clubs
- Have a high profile in the community, such as a major employer or a local government agency.

Andy Little, International Director, Region 5, presented the corporate award, a beautiful crystal globe to Steve Maritz, chairman and CEO of Maritz, LLC at his executive office located at the corporate headquarters in Fenton, Missouri. Since November 1990, Maritz has supported Toastmasters by chartering the Maritz Toastmasters Club # 7953. In January 2002, a second club was chartered — Speak Easy Toastmasters Club # 5585. Toastmasters attending the presentation were: PDG Dan Darnall currently serving as VPE and Acting President for Speak Easy, Area 9 Governor

Mike Kotur, Maritz Toastmasters Club President Shelley Smith and Elisabeth Hauss, Maritz Media Representative. Ms. Hauss was instrumental in publishing an article about the presentation on the Maritz internal company website.



Andy Little presents award to Steve Maritz  
(From left) Andy Little, Shelley Smith, Steve Maritz,  
Dan Darnall and Mike Kotur



Andy Little with Sly Brooks—Enterprise Holdings

That same afternoon, Enterprise Holdings was recognized for their support since 1997. International Director Andy Little presented Nina McVey, Assistant Vice-President with Enterprise Holdings' crystal globe award for their support for three Toastmaster clubs — Rent-A-Toast Club # 8399, WelDon Toastmasters Club # 851506 and the recently chartered Toast On the Rock Club # 2264661. The presentation was attended by members of these three clubs.

District 8 leadership was pleased to coordinate these corporate recognitions from Toastmasters International for the strong support and continued growth of new clubs in District 8. ■



# Chesterfield Toastmasters:

**A 25 Year Journey Continues With the Help of Mentor — by Evelyn Puerto, CC**



Chesterfield Toastmasters

In June, the Chesterfield Toastmasters have a lot to celebrate. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the club. But a year ago, the club had dwindled down to five regular members. The corporate based club suffered when Pfizer moved its staff to a new location. Many regulars were laid off or found jobs elsewhere. The five remaining members faced a tough decision—disband or revive the club. They turned to District 8

leadership for assistance and were put in touch with John Murphy, DTM who has mentored several clubs.

John quickly discovered one of the challenges facing the Chesterfield Toastmasters. While only 5 people came regularly, the club had 13 paid members. Club mentors were only available for clubs with less than 12 members. John agreed to mentor the club anyway, on the condition that that Chesterfield Toastmasters would have 18 members and would become a Distinguished Club by the end of June, 2012. With enthusiastic agreement from the members, the

process began.

The club performed a “Moments of Truth” evaluation and from that, developed several action steps for attracting and retaining new members. Some of the strategies the club pursued include developing a mentoring program for new members, taking more time to meet and get to know new members and upgrading the club website.

As June approaches, Chesterfield Toastmasters has 17 paid members with several prospects for more. We are on track to achieve Distinguished Club status, still going strong after 25 years. Their experience demonstrates that faltering clubs can grow into thriving ones. ■

## The Power of Toast! ...

*(Continued from page 10)*

achieved this honor before me. Toastmasters like Rodney Lincoln. He was more accomplished than me. He was not only an accomplished Toastmaster, but he was also the parliamentarian for our club. He knew everything about Toastmasters and Roberts Rules. He trained a lot of us on how to conduct a correct meeting. He should have received this honor.

**Q: If another inmate would ask you about Toastmasters, what would you tell him?**

A: Encourage them to get involved. This is a great club and there is a waiting list. If someone doesn't want to be here they should leave and allow those that would benefit from this club to have the opportunity to join us.

**Q: What are your future Toastmasters plans?**

A: Continue 'Toastmastering' as long as I am financially able to do so.

**Q: Is there anything you would like to share that I didn't ask about?**

A: Special thanks to the Toastmasters who came to our contests during the 80s and 90s. Thanks to the VICs, Meg and the students of the Callaway Club who voted to include inmates as members.

**DTM Ben Kemper, District 8 salutes you! ■**



Ben Kemper, DTM



## Two Great Years! ...

*(Continued from page 2)*

- To increase membership renewals, we held a Phone-a-thon to reach out to Toastmasters that did not renew in April.
- To increase membership renewals, we did a special post card mailing to Toastmasters that did not renew in April.
- Thanks to LGET Curtis Scroggins, we presented club and individual educational awards via PowerPoint at the district functions for a more meaningful ceremony. We also provided new club banners to those clubs that had all 7 club officers trained in both the Fall and the Spring.
- Thanks to LGM Lora Mather and her hardworking committee, we added 9 new clubs—and that number should grow before June 30th.
- Thanks to the hard work of PRO Kat Mokriakow, the district is now on Facebook, Linked-In, YouTube, and Twitter. We also added a Story Telling Festival. And instead of just participating in one St. Patrick's Day Parade in St. Louis, we also added the Rolla and Springfield, IL parades.

I am also really proud of the accomplishments of our Top 3 Team. LGET Curtis Scroggins and LGM Lora Mather have been wonderful to work with. We make for a great team! With incoming LGM Sandy Kardis joining the team July 1st, the District is in very capable hands going forward. Thanks for allowing me to serve our District. It has been an outstanding experience! I look forward to seeing everyone at the June 23rd TLI for what will be a great way to end 2011-12. ■

*(Continued from page 4)*

## Share Your Journey ...

District 8's Toastmaster Leadership Institute provides specific training for every club officer. Even if you are not a club officer, we encourage you to attend and bring a friend. Our sessions will interest and challenge you. Attend an officer session and hear what officers do for the club.

Another major attraction is our Area, Division and District Contests. Check the District 8 website for the Fall Contest schedule. Be part of the audience. You will be moved and experience an emotional ride. Serve in a functionary role. Contests need multiple timers, judges and ballot counters.

August is the Toastmaster International Convention. This is like a Disney World vacation and coincidentally, the Toastmasters International Convention this year is at Disney World, Orlando, Florida. Just like Disney, Toastmasters designs your experience. You won't see all the hard work behind the scenes, but you will experience the magic and joy of learning.

Our District 8 Conferences are held in November and May. They are fun, fun, fun! Come join us November 16-17 at the Pere Marquette Lodge near Grafton, IL. Plan to attend the Spring Conference in May 2013. We have lots of fun activities, good food and laughter. We laugh and learn. Get to know each other and share our lives.

For a fantastic Toastmaster's Journey:

- Start speaking to find your voice
- Maintain your speaking momentum
- Take time to self-evaluate
- Ask for help—look at yourself through others
- Add variety to your journey—work from a variety of manuals and bring a friend
- Visit our major attractions (TLI; Contests, and Conferences) - Bring a friend

Your Toastmaster journey will change your life. You will lead others to achieve personal success and organizational success. You will do more and have the energy to keep going like you have never felt before.

Come and enjoy the magic of Toastmasters. Plan your Toastmasters journey and create memories for a lifetime. For the thrills you will never forget to the memories you will cherish forever. Bring a friend and feel the magic of finding your voice! ■

(Continued from page 1)

delivered his presentation and the contestant scores were tallied, Toastmasters waited patiently for Tom Coscia, DG, and Curtis Scroggins, lieutenant governor education & training, to announce the winners: first place – Tom Huling, second place - Jeremy Epperson, and third place - Erin Gissel.



**Evaluation Contest:**  
1st—Tom Huling (center),  
2nd—Jeremy Epperson (left)  
3rd—Erin Gissel (right)

“But wait, there’s more,” in the famous words of Mark Mahan who served as the moderator for the *Public Speaking for Visibility and Profit* workshop Saturday afternoon.

Friday night’s festivities ended with a meeting of great minds. Toastmasters gathered in the two level hospitality room for libations, snacks, and NETWORKING! Every single minute spent in the room was in preparation for Saturday, promise.

Saturday was all about business, and the day lived up to the conference theme acronym: **Learn, Expand, Act, and Practice**...It was busy, busy, busy!

Rise and shine, it’s Saturday morning! Rosemary Wilson, district sergeant-at-arms officer, opened breakfast with an ecumenical message; Lora Mather, lieutenant governor marketing, recognized new clubs and individuals instrumental in starting clubs; and Wendy Clothier,

mistress of ceremony, prepped and directed Toastmasters throughout the day as they made their way from breakfast to meetings to workshops.

Immediately after breakfast, Wendy ushered Toastmasters into the Missouri room for the keynote address. Building on the conference theme, Rebecca Bennett was OUTSTANDING; she truly set the tone for the rest of the day. And Toastmasters, well they were like sponges, absorbing every word. The business meeting followed the keynote address.

While much was discussed at the business meeting, the 2012 – 2013 district officers were elected: District Governor -Curtis Scroggins, Lt. Governor Education & Training - Lora Mather, and Lt. Governor Marketing - Sandy Kardis. Five division governors were elected into office as well: Division A Governor - Mike Kotur, Division B Governor - Cynthia Warren, Division C Governor - Jef Williams, Division E Governor - Frank Yates, and Division F Governor - Jeannette Lynch. All of this happened before lunch.

At lunch, International Director Andrew Little delivered a delightful, heartfelt keynote message, and Toastmasters and clubs were recognized for educational and club goal successes. Then off to the educational sessions Toastmasters went, where for the next three and a half hours they were engaged in **learning** as much as possible, **expanding** their knowledge base, and **acting** on the information learned by putting the information into **practice**. There were six dynamic workshops to choose from and seven dynamic speakers. One workshop was a panel discussion with two speakers.

Saturday evening, highlight of the conference, was a star duded event

filled with entertainment, awards and recognitions. Everybody who was anybody was there.

Dignitaries...Line up, please! After dinner, five international speech contestants with hopes of advancing to the regional contest and beyond in Orlando, wowed the audience with interesting and thought provoking presentations. And, while the audience waited with baited breath for the contest results, District Photographer Kevin Desrosiers surprised the audience with a year-in-review slide presentation which included highlights from the spring conference. Everyone present got to see themselves in action. Also during this time, the district awarded the following awards to some very deserving Toastmasters: Division Governor of the Year - Debra Morrissey, Area Governor of the Year - Peggy Willoughby, Retired Toastmaster of the Year - Sandy Kardis, and Toastmaster of the Year - Kat Mokriakow.

“But wait, there’s more.” The DTM line was formed and seven new Toastmasters were recognized for attaining this distinguished educational award: Jane Clark, Paul Cook, Karen Cupp, Richard Hawkins, Lora Mather, Curtis Scroggins, and Cynthia Scroggins.

And now, the moment Toastmasters had been waiting for: Tom Huling, taking first place, will represent district 8 at the regional International Speech Contest in Orlando, Florida. Winners up were Damon Watson, second place, and Alan Kirby, third place.

After the congratulatory thoughts, Toastmasters gathered once again in the hospitality room to visit with friends before departing from the hotel after another successful conference.

(Continued on page 17)



## District 8 members earn Education & Leadership Awards from March 19, 2012 to June 6, 2012



### Division A

Capital T Toastmasters Club

- Coscia, Tom—CC

Franklin County Toastmasters

- Poinsett, Brenda—CC
- Lagershausen, Robert E.—CC
- Gildehaus, Ralph H.—CC

High-Noon Toastmasters Club

- Mulholland, Jason D.—CC
- Wayland, Jered Michael—ALB
- Prosser-Burlison, Michal Sue—ALB
- Burlison, Bill D.—ALB
- Hill-Carter, Camesha N.—CC

Jeffco Challengers Club

- Breckner, Carole Sue—ALB
- Lifka, Rich R.—CC
- Breckner, Carole Sue—ALS

Marion VA Toastmasters

- Deschene, Mark—CC
- Schlager, Sandy—CC
- Deschene, Mark—CL
- Willoughby, Peggy—CL

Maritz Toastmasters

- Garlapaty, Aruna—ACS
- Reeves, Kelly J.—CC
- Obert, Jason A.—LDREXC

Mastertoasters Club

- Hunt, Patrick James—CL

South County Toastmasters Club

- Kutell, Adam Henry—CL
- Bettag, Stephen G—CC

Southern Illinois Toastmasters Club

- Cupp, Karen D.—CL
- Cupp, Karen D.—ALB
- Cupp, Karen D.—LDREXC
- Cupp, Karen D.—ALS
- Cupp, Karen D.—DTM

SPEAK UP! Club

- Holt, Sharon L.—CC

Unigroup Toastmasters Club

- Vollmer, Susan—ACG

### Division B

Aerospace Orators Club

- Thompson, Robert Chester—CL

Bulls & Bears Club

- Lam, Chrisy—CC

Cable Talk Toastmasters Club

- McNell, Ann M.—CL
- Bolte, Greg D—CC
- Montgomery, Arthur Scot—ACB
- Fuentes, Joanna Andrea—CC

City of St. Peters

- Knoble, Debbie G.—CC

Covidien Communicators

- Lowery, Katrina—ACB

Creve Coeur Toastmasters Club

- Torres, Jimena C.—CC
- Jeffries, June M.—ACB

Earth City Toastmasters

- Ayers, Alan D.—ACS
- Smith, Michael S.—ACB

Little Hills Toastmasters

- Blue, Willie E.—CC
- Kehrbaum, Jonas—CL

McCarthy Communication Builders

- Hanson, Paul B.—CL

Money Talks Club

- Fields, Albert C.—ACS
- Berkbigler, Susan M.—CC
- Eilers, Chuck F.—CC

Monsanto Noontime Toastmasters

- Duong, Can—ACB

SALT

- Price, Howard Lee—ACS
- Obrecht, Heather N—CC
- Russo, Dennis—CC
- Tucker, Nicole R—ACB

Script Masters Club

- Larson, Emily E.—CC
- Mokriakow, Kathryn G.—ACB

St. Charles County Toastmasters Club

- Tucker, Dawn Stone—CC
- Allen, Dwayne C—CC

- Pochedly, Lydia G.—ALB
- Pochedly, Lydia G.—CC

WelDon Toast Club

- Ferris, Travis M—CL

### Division C

ADM Toastmasters

- Wright, Betty F.—CC
- Mixson, Thomas Owen—CC
- Tolly, Tara Elizabeth—CC

McBrian Lincoln-Douglas Club

- Unchageri, Chandan—LDREXC
- Unchageri, Chandan—ALS

Noontime Toastmasters Club

- Wolff, Storm M—CC

Scott Toastmasters Club

- Wood, Yolanda M.—CL

St Clair Club

- Gouridine, Christopher G.—CL
- Sprouse, Lisa—ACB

### Division E

Capital Toastmasters Club

- Sipes, Teala—CL

Columbia Toastmasters

- Fredrick, Michael Joseph—ACB
- Burkhardt, Karen Lee—ALB

Courage to Grow Toastmasters Club

- Stevenson, Mary E.—ALB
- Hinshaw, Michelle—ACS
- Shannon, Karla K—CC

Downtown Toastmasters

- Britt, Leigh C.—CL

Lincoln University Toastmasters

- Davis, Pierre—CC
- McCauley, Demetrics R—CC
- Hendricks, Adrian—CC
- Scroggins, Curtis L.—LDREXC
- Scroggins, Curtis L.—ACG
- Scroggins, Cynthia—ACG
- Scroggins, Cynthia—DTM

Shelter Insurance Toastmasters

*(Continued on page 16)*

**Educational Awards cont.***(Continued from page 15)*

- Hurst, Dustin Lee—CC
- Hurst, Dustin Lee—CL
- Brown, Dustin—CC

## Talu Toastmasters Club

- Wright, Robert E.—CC
- Licklider, William F.—CC
- Harris, Calvin Lee—ACB
- Lockhart, Jimmie—CL
- Clay, La-Nay A.—CC

## Waynesville-St Robert Area TM

- Ellis, Tom E.—ACB

**Division F**

## Anheuser-Busch Club

- Devereaux, Sean—CC

## County Communicators Club

- Allen, Christopher E.—CC

## Grand Center Club

- James, Grace B.—CC
- Sams, Vernell J.—CC
- Cox, Thomas—ACS

## MAC Toastmasters Club

- Suelflow, Nancy—ALB
- Suelflow, Nancy—ACB
- Flynn, Jack—ACB
- Flynn, Jack—CL
- Noce, John—ACS
- Schwarz, Bryan—CC
- Applewhite, Thomas R—CC
- Hayes, Philip J—CC

## Primary Conversations

- Jones, Arnita Kyee—ACB

## Rent-A-Toast Club

- Spencer, Daryl Lamont—CC

## RubinBrown

- Bouselli, Eric—CC

## SLU Masters Club

- Clark, Jane Dawson—ACG
- Clark, Jane Dawson—DTM

## Solae Toastmasters Club

- Busch, Theodore C.—CL
- Calloway, Jeremy—CC

## Voices in Unity Club

- Lopes, Daphne Ramona—CC
- Passanise, Cheryl L.—CC
- Mwangi, Dorothy Wambui—CL
- Watson, Damon Louis—CC

## Wells Fargo Advisors Toastmasters

- Clothier, Wendy Renee—ACB ■

**2011-12 Division C Governor**

As the outgoing Division C Governor, I wanted to take this time to thank my fellow Toastmasters, Area Governors, clubs and their members for an awesome year!



This past year I've worked on several large projects including Youth Leadership programs (outside Toastmasters) and Leadership Springfield, IL class of 2011-12. I attribute the leadership and communication skills used in all of these arenas and my success to my wonderful Toastmasters growing opportunities.

To my fellow Toastmasters, keep up the focused work and support

so that every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills. Take care, take charge, and stay great!

Enthusiastically,

Larry Hemingway Sr. ■

**Workshop Presented by:**

**Smedley Hometown Memorial Toastmasters**

*AND*

**River City Toastmasters Club**

**When: June 30, 2012**

**Where: Prairie Commons Library  
915 Utz Lane  
Hazelwood, MO 63042**

**Time: 9:30 am**

**Topic: Blogging Connections**

**Presenter: Jackie Jones, ACB CL**

**Blogging Connections** will provide an overview on how to use blogging as an effective means of communicating your message to your target audience.



Jackie Jones, ACB CL is a member of River City Toastmasters and currently serves as the administrator for the **District 8 Toastmasters Facebook** page. Jackie is a blogger who uses social networking to educate and empower her audience against bullying. She also provides interactive presentations to local schools and community organizations.





*(Continued from page 14)***International Speech Contest:**

1st—Tom Huling (center),  
2nd—Damon Watson (left),  
3rd—Alan Kirby (right)

Just like with the Grammys, there are so many people to thank for a job well done; but for now, the district trio and the conference committee thanks YOU for attending the conference! ■

**Many thanks to the 2012 Spring Conference Committee:**

Jacquie Vick and Jef Williams, Conference Chairs  
Frank Yates, Conference Treasurer  
Paul Cook, Registration Chair  
Raymond Allen, Conference Program Chair  
Howard Price, Conference Publicity Chair  
Dori Drummond, District Contest Chair  
Brenda English, Mistress of Ceremony (Friday)  
Wendy Clothier, Mistress of Ceremony (Saturday)  
Yolanda Wood, Hospitality Chair  
Kathryn Mokriakow, District Store  
Delbert Creed, Charity Auction Chair  
Greg Phillips, Audio Visual Chair

**Special thanks to:****Presenters**

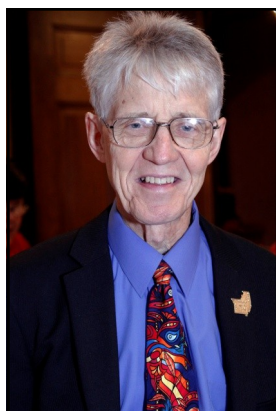
Rebecca Bennett  
Andrew Little, ID  
Lois Creamer  
Manley Feinberg II  
Max S. Kaiser, Jr.  
Jeanette Lynch  
Mark Mahan  
Jef Williams

**Room Monitors**

Raymond Allen  
Arnita Jones  
Lora Mather  
Deborah Morrissey  
Casetta Stevens

**Contest Functionaries**

Contest Masters: Will Hayden & Raymond Allen  
Chief Judges: Suresh Gopalakrishnan & Debbie Hyde  
Every one serving in a functionary role







# A Little Bit of Irish in District 8



**By Kat Mokriakow, District Public Relations Officer**

St. Patrick's Day is a time of year when all of America claims to be a little bit Irish. This is a time for celebration, getting together with friends and family, having parties and going to parades that honor the true Irish or the Irish at heart. Three years ago, District 8 Toastmasters joined the parades in Downtown, St. Louis advertising our clubs as marched, waved, passed out candy, beads, gum and Toastmaster flyers to parade watchers. We had a great time sharing and getting to know one another as we collaborated in our mission to spread the word of Toastmasters.

As we know if you are not continually finding creative new ways of finding members, you will not continue to grow as a district—so it goes with the parades as well. Staying in line with that philosophy, District 8 Toastmasters kicked it up another notch in participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. This year Toastmaster members marched in three parades representing their divisions. When I sat down at the beginning of the Toastmaster year, planning what my vision as the Public Relations Officer would be for the district, I noted that participation in downtown St. Louis would not benefit clubs in the divisions far away from the St. Louis area. My plan was to participate in four parades that would directly benefit that geographic location. As I advertised to all areas in the effort to gain



support, Ed Allen—Area 14 Governor and Jean Craft of Ozark Orators, both from Division E stepped up to take on the challenge for their division. Then later Chandan Unchageri of McBrian-Lincoln Douglas in Division C joined representing his division.

As the other parades were added to the group of marchers, so another change was taking place as well. The downtown, St.



Louis group designed, created and marched with an actual float. Yes, you read it right! A float! The float design was the Toastmasters logo in maroon and stood 8 ft. tall. The construction was made of wood, nails and paint. Toastmaster workers from all over showed up to help cut out, nail and paint the float sashes Toastmasters were to wear across their chest during the parade. Tom



Ahillen of the Anheuser-Busch club and Tim Spezia, IPDG worked tirelessly all the way up to the parade time in order to ensure the float was shown at its best. Tom was in

charge of the float design and construction. Tim Spezia marked the logo shape and painted it. In order to transport such a large float, we had to have a vehicle large enough to hold it and take the weight. How lucky we were to discover that Julie Siess of Square Talkers had just such a vehicle owned by her father-in-law, Jim Siess. Jim was gracious enough to loan us his vehicle for the parade and even consented to drive it.



The day was hot and we were almost at the very end, but a great time was had by all and those who didn't wish to march were able to hitch a ride on the trucks flat bed.

*(Continued on page 19)*



(Continued from page 18)

As we marked these charges and counted our successes, I realized that participation in these parades was much more than just spreading the word about Toastmasters. It was about collaboration, great times, getting to know one another and finding good friends along the way. It was about commitment and strengthening my own persistence in accomplishing my Toastmaster goals. Around 20 Toastmasters participated in the downtown, St. Louis march and we even picked up a few non-Toastmasters who joined us as the parade moved along.

In Division E, 15 Toastmasters joined Ed and Jean as they marched in the Rolla, MO St. Patrick's Day parade — Toastmasters from Mid Mo of Columbia, Lincoln of Jefferson City, Huber of Jefferson City, Capital of Jefferson City, Good Neighbors of Columbia, Ozark Orators of Rolla, Waynesville and the University of Science and Technology. In addition, LGET Curtis Scroggins and his wife Cynthia were there with Past District 8 Governor Dori Drummond from Smooth Talking Toastmasters of Poplar Bluff, Frank Yates (District 8 Treasurer), and Area 7 Governor Elaine Tillman. Ed Allen said, "We had a good turn-out and the rain held off just enough for us to complete the parade route!" Ed hopes to do this again next year and he already has many ideas he is exploring to enhance what he began this year.

In Division C, 10 Toastmasters including Division C Governor Larry Hemingway Sr. joined Chandan in the Springfield, IL parade. Chandan was able to complete his High Performance Leadership project as a result of his leadership in leading the group down the parade route passing out flyers and beads to parade watchers.



**Springfield, IL St Patrick's Day Parade**



**Rolla, MO St Patrick's Day Parade**



**Division C Governor Larry Hemingway Sr. and Springfield area Toastmasters**

The parade routes were short, but had a mighty impact with the Toastmasters who participated and the clubs who benefited from this event participation. I hope the divisions decide to take this on again next year for our presence in the public is growing and we don't want to stop now. I want to thank everyone personally for making the St. Patrick's Day Parade such a huge success and hope you got a 'bit o' the luck' from the experience. ■





## More Photos from St. Louis St. Patrick's Day Parade



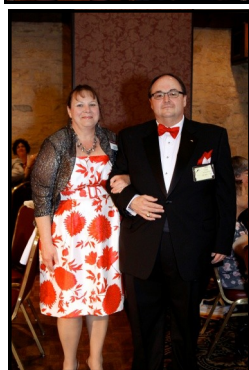
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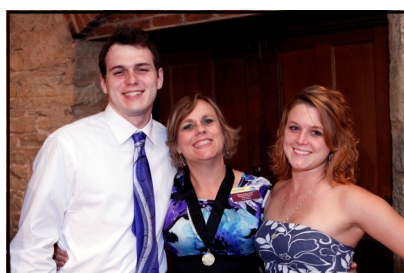
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## Saturday - Spring Conference



**Congratulations new DTMs:**  
Jane Clark, Paul Cook, Karen Cupp,  
Richard Hawkins, Lora Mather,  
Curtis Scroggins and Cynthia Scroggins



# TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

## District 8 is on the web.

### [www.dist8tm.org](http://www.dist8tm.org)

## WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

### The Mission of District 8

The mission of the District is to enhance the performance and extend the network of Clubs, thereby offering greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from the Toastmasters educational program by:

- Focusing on the critical success factors as specified by the District educational and membership goals.
- Insuring that each Club effectively fulfills its responsibilities to its members.
- Providing effective training and leadership opportunities for Club and District Officers.

## Upcoming Events:

### June

16th—St Clair Toastmasters Club 65th Anniversary  
*Fischer's Restaurant, Belleville, IL at 6:00 pm*

23rd—Toastmaster Leadership Institute  
*Farrell Learning & Teaching Center  
at Washington University Medical School  
St Louis, MO*

### August

15-18th—Toastmasters International Convention  
*Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek Resort  
Orlando, Florida*

### November

16-17th—District 8 Fall Conference  
*Pere Marquette Lodge & Conference Center  
Grafton, IL*

### District 8 Reaching out to Non-renewals with Phone-a-thon

On June 3rd a dedicated group of Toastmasters gathered together to phone Toastmasters that did not renew dues by April 1st. The District had close to 600 members that did not renew and we need every member we can get if we are to be distinguished for 2011-12. This was a first time initiative and it uncovered renewals.

Thanks to the following individuals: Jane Clark, Tom Coscia, Lora Mather, Debra Morrissey, Ralph Morrissey, Cheryl Passanise, Joe Passanise and Rosemary Wilson. Also, thanks to the following individuals that made calls from Division E: Dori Drummond, Cindy Larm and Curtis Scroggins.

Toastmasters International also did an email blast to all non-renewing members earlier that week. ■



### District 8 Map



### TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

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